

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 254792  
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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS:JD  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254792

STADIS////////////////////////////////////  
EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CARACAS 10360 ACTION SECSTATE 22 OCT 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 10360

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS SHUM VE NU  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ RAISES NICARAGUA SITUATION

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ SUMMONED ME THIS MORNING (OCT 22) TO MEET  
WITH HIM AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE RAISED THE NICARAGUAN  
SITUATION IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

2. FIRST HE SAID THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES SCHEDULED  
TO CONVEIN IN MANAGUA NOV 7 IS A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN. IT  
SEEMS INCONGRUOUS HE SAID, TO MEET IN THE MIDST OF THE SECURITY  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 254792

SITUATION THAT EXIST IN MANAGUA. SECONDLY, IT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED  
AS SUPPORT FOR THE SOMOZA REGIME BY THE NATIONS OF THE  
HEMISPHERE IN THE FACE OF SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. THE  
AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH THE PRESIDENT CHARACTERIZED AS  
HORRENDOUS, WITH DISCUSSION LEADERS SUCH AS CHILE, ADD TO  
THE INCONGRUITY. HIS OWN ARMY CHIEF WAS LOATH TO GO AND  
DID NOT KNOW HOW THIS COULD BE EXPLAINED TO THE VENEZUELAN

PUBLIC. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE THOUGHT VENEZUELA AND THE US SHOULD SUGGEST A POSTPONMENT OF THE MEETING; TO PROCEED WITH IT, HE THOUGHT, WOULD BE A MOST UNDESIRABLE EVENT, INCONSISTENT WITH ALL THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE SAID AND DONE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I SAID I WOULD TRANSMIT HIS THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTION TO WASHINGTON.

3. THE PRESIDENT THEN DISCOURSED AT LENGTH ON WHAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE INTERNAL SITUATION TO BE. HE SAID THAT THE MOVEMENT AGAINST SOMOZA WAS VERY DEEP AND VERY SERIOUS. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A BASIC ANTI-SOMOZA MOVEMENT AMONG THE ELITE AND

BUSINESS GROUPS, AND HE CHARACTERIZED THE LEADER OF THIS AS FELIPE MANTICA, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS AN OWNER OF A CHAIN OF SUPER-MARKETS. THIS GROUP HAD ACCEPTED THE SUPPORT OF SANDINISTAS AND OBVIOUSLY A "FRONT" OF SORTS HAD DEVELOPED. MANTICA HAD BEN IN CARACAS TWO DAYS AGO, AND HAD COME TO SEE PEREZ. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE FOUND HIM TO BE A VERY SERIOUS, IMPRESSIVE YOUNG MAN, AND HE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE INTERNAL SITUATION, AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF MANTICA'S VISIT WAS SIMPLY TO INFORM HIM OF THE SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SOMOZA SYSTEM IS UNDERWAY AND THAT THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS AND PROFOUND. HE THOUGHT MANTICA'S MOVEMENT WAS MODERATE AND SERIOUS, AND WOULD PREVENT EXTREMIST PRE-EMPTION OF THE SITUATION  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 254792

WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE OCCUR.

4. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT A GOVT IN EXILE MIGHT BE OR WAS BEING FORMED BY MANTICA AND HIS GROUP. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT A NICARAGUAN CATHOLIC PRIEST, WHOSE NAME HE COULD NOT REMEMBER, WHO LIVED IN THE US AND WAS WELL KNOWN TO CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES (AND HE THOUGHT TO MARK SCHNIEDER), WAS AWARE OF ALL OF THIS AND COULD PROVIDE INFO AS TO THIS ANGLE. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OUR PERCEPTION OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN NICARAGUA.

5. THE PRESIDENT THEN SAID THAT HE FEARED SOMOZA WOULD IMMEDIATELY UNLEASH SERIOUS REPRESSION, AND THAT THEREFORE HE BELIEVED THAT THE INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SHOULD TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE SITUATION AND PERHAPS VISIT MANAGUA. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE ME TO SOUND WASHINGTON OUT ON THIS IDEA BEFORE VENEZUELA MADE ANY OFFICIAL PROPOSALS. HE THOUGHT THE OAS COMMITTEE THAT HAS BEEN NAMED TOO RESTRICTED IN MEMBERSHIP AND DEFINED MISSION TO HANDLE THIS ASPECT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED.

I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PASS BACK TO PEREZ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

A. OUR REACTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES(COMMENT: PEREZ IS VERY UPSET ABOUT THIS, AND IS VERY LIKELY TO PULL VENEZUELA OUT OF PARTICIPATION AND TO MAKE IT A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. IT SEEMS TO ME HE MAY HAVE APOINT AND THAT POSTPONMENT WOULD BE PRUDENT AND ELEGANTLY POSSIBLE GIVEN THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION).

B. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION.

C. OUR REACTION TO HIS SUGGESTION ON THE IAHRC VISITING NICARAGUA.

VAKY.

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PAGE 04 STATE 254792

UNQUOTE VANCE".

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## Message Attributes

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